

care to recognize Mr. Sulzer or Cuba; either one.

Mr. Reed himself went talk of House action toward Cuba. His excuse is valid; he is Speaker, and is supposed, in the etiquette of his perch, to conduct, rather than transact, House business.

**OUR OWN INTERESTS FIRST.**

Those who are near him, however, intimate that as a fact the Speaker does not see why Congress should break its neck in any headlong rush in Cuba's aid. They say that this is all there is to Mr. Reed's slowness toward Cuba. He thinks we should save our own affairs, and deliver ourselves from peril—finance and tariff, for example—before heading a pell-mell rescue party to tear Cuba from Spain.

Politicians, and especially those of Democratic feather, say that Mr. Reed is holding action on Cuba as a card up his sleeve to play at an hour when it will better serve to uphold his boom. Mr. Reed, saturated in the vein of party, ripe for all fashion of fair political intrigue, would not hesitate to reserve Cuba if any personal advantages to himself might accrue. Still, the chance to do himself good through Cuban recognition is so remote that the story is improbable.

The more reasonable view is that Mr. Reed does not want easily to Cuba, and over in the Senate Mr. John Sherman, at once the leader of his party and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, is equally chilly.

The taking home of Campos has vastly fed the enthusiasm of friends of Cuban independence, both in and out of Congress. And this enthusiasm may swell and sweep to a point which will compel both Mr. Reed and Mr. Sherman to go with it, or get out of the way. The business, too, might be brought to a head by a message from the President. And either contingency may provoke Cuban recognition within a week.

But aside from such chances, were the friends of Cuba wise, they would unite their persuasive energies on Messrs. Reed and Sherman. Win both; win either. Even get them to consent to stand aside and permit events to pass, and Cuban recognition will be the mere matter of a roll call. The moment the question can come up a result favorable to Cuba is assured.

As a sort of postscript to this it might be added that foreign representatives—legation folk—say that Europe is apt to wait on America in this Cuban affair. There is hardly a power in Europe which cares to precede the United States in touching its toe to Cuba.

Let the United States take the lead, however, and the whisper of diplomacy is that any one of them will cordially follow suit.

## CEPERO IS AN AMERICAN.

Friends of the Prisoner in Morro Castle Declare There Was No Reason for His Arrest.

By Charles Michelson.

Havana, Jan. 18.—General Cepero, who was arrested on a crowded steamer passing from Cienfuegos to Hatabano, and brought handcuffed to Havana, a few days ago, made the statement this morning in Morro Castle, where he has been confined among the many other political prisoners, that he is an American citizen. He says that he was naturalized in Buffalo on August 1, 1887.

Against his incarceration, he credits the rumor cable to New York that he was a go-between for a treacherous insurgent chief and the Government, and that he was to make a bargain for the delivery of a whole insurgent column into the hands of the troops, the story being that he was arrested by minor Spanish officers, who knew nothing of the arrangement, and thus spoiled the combination. If such were the case, it is pointed out, Cepero would have been released before this.

His putting forward of the claim of American citizenship, which is all concerning the distinguished prisoner that the authorities will permit to be known, makes it evident that he is only one more of the numerous suspects that the Spanish authorities in Cuba have laid their hands on since the present troubles started. His friends here say that though a bold and brave man, Cepero, if he had been an active Revolutionist, would certainly not have been so reckless as to expose himself to certain capture by taking passage on a coast steamer. They have therefore decided that the Government's only reason for arresting him was suspicion.

## FARMERS' FATAL QUARREL.

All Over \$5 Worth of Land—One Man Is Dead, Another Is Dying and a Third Is in Jail.

Huntington, W. Va., Jan. 17.—A quarrel over a line fence which does not aggregate \$5 worth of land resulted in a double murder in Lawrence County, just across the river, to-day.

Six months ago George W. Phillips and Elijah Walls, both wealthy farmers, quarrelled about a few feet of woodland. To-day Phillips had his hired man, Henry W. Estep, meet Walls on the road near the disputed land. Walls suggested that they go up and look at the location of the fence and see if they could not settle the trouble without going into court. Phillips refused to talk about it, and finally struck Walls.

Stetson then took a hand in the fight, and Walls pulled his pistol. Phillips got one bullet through his lung and another through the arm. Estep was shot through the shoulder and in the abdomen. Phillips died this evening and Estep cannot live more than a few hours. Walls has been arrested.

Phillips and Walls were influential men, and stood well in the community. Each has a family.

## Every Day

In the week Hood's Sarsaparilla should be taken by 90 per cent of all the people at this time to prevent that run down condition which invites disease.

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**

Is the One True Blood Purifier. All druggists, \$1.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, aid digestion. 25c.

## TO REMOVE SUPT. PIERCE.

### Sworn Statements of Brutalities in the Westchester Home.

#### A Terrible State of Affairs Revealed by Former Inmates.

#### Helpless Children Lashed and Chained in an Inhuman Manner.

#### AN EARNEST INVESTIGATION BEGUN.

The Reign of the Present Head of the Notorious Institution Believed to Be Nearing an End.

A determined effort will be made by the people of Westchester County to put an end to the cruel punishment inflicted upon the children incarcerated in the Westchester Home conducted by Superintendent Pierce. The release of Harry Weiss through the intervention of the Journal has convinced those horrified at the practice in the Home that the abolishment of the institution is not impossible.

Lawyer Frederick B. Van Kleeck, who has thus far handled the case for the people against the institution, has notified Referee Guernsey that evidence will be presented in verification of the public charges against the superintendent, and that he is collecting the testimony of many witnesses. Lawyer Van Kleeck expressed himself yesterday as convinced that the referee would examine carefully and duly incorporate in his report to the Supreme Court the strong corroborative evidence of cruelty at the Home that is accumulating in his hands. The committee for the defense appointed by the institution will be ready to begin the case next week, when it will be called.

FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

Ex-Judge Robertson, of White Plains, said yesterday:

"I asked Justice Dykman for the appointment of a referee to examine the affairs of the Home with the sole purpose of securing a final and authoritative opinion as to its management, both past and present. Personally I want the charges against the superintendent sifted to the bottom. The investigation will be public and will go deeply into both sides of the case. If the institution is found to have been properly conducted, and Mr. Pierce's conduct of it is approved, it will end the matter and the superintendent will be retained. If, on the contrary, the charges of cruelty that have been charged against him, or any part of them, are established, he will be dismissed. There is no doubt as to this proposition whatever. In the face of satisfactory proof the Board of Managers would not for a moment be disposed to retain him in office. The institution has been, justly or unjustly, as may subsequently be proved, the pride of many respectable and well-meaning people. They believe its interests must continue to be advanced. If they cannot be advanced by the retention of Superintendent Pierce it is but logical to presume that he will be removed."

The powers of Referee Guernsey are clearly enough defined by statute. Upon the submission of the referee's report to the Supreme Court unusual questions of law and procedure will undoubtedly be brought out.

#### PIERCE WILL PROBABLY GO.

If Judge Robertson's explanation of the Board of Managers' attitude in the affair is correct, however, the matter will never reach this stage of complication. Pierce will go if it is proved before Referee Guernsey that he has been cruel and inhuman in his treatment of the children there, as the State Board of Charities and a host of voluntary witnesses have already asserted. The testimony of these witnesses is not doubtful. It is apparently conclusive. Some of the details are to be found in the sworn statements of the former inmates which the Journal presents to-day.

Albert Jackson, a carriage painter and sign writer, twenty-two years old, who lives at No. 180 Elm street, Yonkers, was sent to the Westchester Home in 1882, when the institution was still at Pleasantville. He was committed for destitution. After he left the Home, in 1885, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was honorably discharged at the end of his term. He married and settled down at his father's trade, and is a sober and industrious young man. When the Theresa See investigation was made at White Plains in 1884 he was summoned by the attorneys who appeared on behalf of the girl to testify as to the conduct of the Pierce institution while he was an inmate.

The See girl's case was effectually suppressed by the so-called Committee of Investigation. Jackson's testimony was excluded by a rule limiting the period to be covered by the investigation to the two years immediately preceding the See girl's flogging and escape. Many other witnesses were excluded by the same rule. The reason for this exclusion is found, possibly, in the testimony they proposed to give, of which Jackson's is a fair specimen. His statement, as made under oath yesterday at Yonkers, follows:

**STATEMENT OF ALBERT JACKSON.**

I entered Pierce's Home on August 11, 1882. At the time I entered the Home I was suffering from a chronic complaint, and placed a week after I became an inmate Pierce began to whip me, saying that I was trying to fool him, and that he would cure me or know the reason why. Previous to my going to the Home I had been in the Hospital at Yonkers, and the doctors said that what I needed to effect a cure was to keep my body and feet well covered and at all times to keep my feet warm and dry. At the Home I was compelled to go barefooted from May to November in all kinds of weather and only clothed with a hickory shirt and blue overalls and jumper.

During the three years and three months I was an inmate of the Home I often received brutal whippings. Any inmate can and will corroborate my statements in this case. To further my distress he used to hold me up to the ridicule and disrespect of the other inmates of the entire institution, after which he placed me in the Home hospital and had the doctors of the institution operate on me without any authority from my parents or any one else, and while I was under the surgeon's care he would come over to the hospital before the doctors came and whip me just the same as before. The operation did not do anything for me but make my trouble worse than ever, because it had not had anything to do with my case whatever.

One time he put me in an old dress that came only to my knees. I wore the dress about two months and I also had the chains on me; at that time he did not have anything around my ankles to prevent them from cutting my legs, and as a result I carry the marks of the heavy links of the chains and can show them to anybody even now.

One day a visit came to the Home to see Pierce and as I was standing on the horse block for punishment he asked me where Mr. Pierce was. I did not know and told him so. After he had gone Pierce asked me what I had told the gentleman a lie for. I said I did not tell a lie, whereupon he told me to go and wait. When he came up and made me take off all my clothes and tied me over a wheel so that I could not get away. He then took the horse whip, which was made of whalebone, and whipped me until I became unconscious. They put me to bed and I did not know anything until the next day. I saw the marks of this whipping on my back. I was not so badly that I could not even sit up in bed for two or three weeks. Pierce then came to me while I was in bed and tried to make it all right by saying that he did not like to punish me, and that he hoped he shouldn't have to do so any more, because he thought a good deal of me, and wanted to see me grow up to be a good man.

I tried to run away one day, but was caught on the net farm and brought back. He then chained me in bed for about one month and fed me on bread and water. Every morning he would come upstairs to punish me, which he did by striking me with a whip. He would beat me with the cat-o-nine-tails until the blood would come. This he did every morning as long as I had the chains on.

One day a boy named Frank Ketch, who was on the "dining-room gang," was playing with a dish towel by snapping it at the other boys. When Pierce came in and caught him he took the towel and dipped it in the water, then wound it up and snapped it at his feet, saying, "How do you like it?" The result of this was taking a large piece of flesh out of his foot just above the heel and right to the cord of the leg. The young fellow was laid up for a long time by this. There were plenty of other boys besides myself who saw this act of brutality.

When the ladies of the Board of Managers came to visit the home there was more a coming than Mr. Pierce's. He would not let them go out of his foot just above the heel and right to the cord of the leg. The young fellow was laid up for a long time by this. There were plenty of other boys besides myself who saw this act of brutality.

Two years ago, after I had been dismissed from the institution, I went there, and Theresa See at that time told me that Pierce had whipped her fearfully, and had told her that he was going to give her some more that night. She asked me if I would help her to get away, and I told her that I would if I could, but Pierce was watching her every movement, and as a result he and I had quite an argument, which finally drifted up to his trouble at court, and he then asked me if I would make certain statements which would be in his favor. I told him that in case of court trouble I would tell only the truth. He then forbade me to ever enter the Home again. I said as I was under no obligation to him, I would not trouble him. From that day he has done all in his power to ruin my name. He also told some of my friends that while in the Home I was very dull at my studies and was not of sound mind, but I can produce a certificate of perfectness in both lessons and deportment for one hundred consecutive weeks, signed by my teacher at the Home, and which I am going to produce before the Investigating Committee.

The worst case of brutality which I ever saw in the institution was in the case of a boy named Walter Marjory, who had tried to run away. He got as far as the depot, but was caught and brought back. About a year before I was sent to the Home I was told by the name of Joseph Evans and myself. He stationed the Evans boy at the inside door and me at the outside door of the front hall, which was one of the large, old-fashioned halls. He gave us orders that if any one came in either way to ring the bell. He took the Marjory boy in this hall and took every bit of his clothes off of him, and beat him with a horse whip. Once the boy grappled with him, when he hit him over the head with the butt end of the whip, which knocked him unconscious. Pierce then ordered Evans and I to bring in a tub and fill it with warm water, which we had to do or get into trouble ourselves. He then sent me to the kitchen to get some salt from the cook, which Pierce put into the water. We then lifted Marjory out of the door and put him in the tub, the poor fellow screamed so he could be plainly heard all over the building. After the whipping Marjory was taken and put to bed, where he stayed for a long time. When he came downstairs again he was a different boy. He would not talk to any one in the house, and Pierce put the chains on him and made him work the force pump, which forces water

the last time I was in the Home both in chains at the same time. They were Irene Greene and Carrie Miller. There are plenty of witnesses to all of these things, but as Pierce is always hounding them, a good many of them do not like to say much just now. But when they see that others are going to testify they will come forward. If Pierce's witnesses would tell the whole truth there is not one of them but what would condemn him by their testimony.

ALBERT JACKSON.

City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, ss: On this 18th day of January, 1896, personally came before me Albert Jackson, personally known to me, and known to be the individual who signed the above statement, and duly acknowledged that he signed the same.

W. A. DRINKWATER,

Notary Public, in and for Westchester County, State of New York.

George Grautham, who was dismissed from the Home about a year ago, tells a similar story of his experience there, which shows that the severity of Pierce's punishment has not been much abated in recent years. George now works for his father, G. H. Grautham, on the farm at Napera, near Yonkers. The father says:

"From what my boy has told me, I am prepared to believe almost any story of cruelty against Pierce. He describes all the tortures that have been told, and more too. I went to the institution to see the boy once, and while I was waiting I walked around the grounds a little. At every turn somebody told me to attend to my business, and not pry around. They wanted me to go to the front door and wait. I found afterward that the place was run like a jail, with spotters to watch the boys in everything they did. If a boy got on the lawn grass without permission, he was punished the next morning with a strap of numerous tails. My boy says Pierce would take pleasure at night in putting a strap to soak in salt water, so as to make the punishment more severe. "Every boy there wore thin blue overalls in winter as well as summer. My boy came home with a cold that cost me a good many dollars to cure. It would make your heart ache to hear my boy and the other boys that went with him tell of their hardships there."

Another story is that of John Bonnett:

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I went to the Westchester Home in May, 1881, from New Rochelle, and stayed there off and on for four years. I have been punished many times by Pierce with a strap that had a buckle on the end of it. Twice I was whipped with the strap until black and blue welts were raised on my body that did not go away for two weeks. He used to whip me on the hands the same way.

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He makes affidavit that while incarcerated in the Westchester Home he was subjected to the whip and the chain.

into a tank at the top of the house. Many a time he came in the laundry where the pump was, and unwares and because Marjory was not working the pump fast enough to suit him, he would cut him across the bare legs with the cat-o-nine-tails, which was a stick, about fourteen inches long, with twenty-eight leather shoestrings on it. To-day this same boy is out of his right mind as a result of the punishments he received.

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I used to attend a public school with the same boy before he went to the Home, and I can swear that he was all right at that time. I would like to see Pierce point out one boy or girl for every dozen that has left his Home that is self-supporting or that has a trade, and for every one of such I will point out the other eleven that are either cutwasters or tramps, who go about from one place to another, and do not want work. They can lay it all at Pierce's door, because he is to them what an animal tamer is to wild animals—simply that while he is where they are they will do as he bids, but when his back is turned they are liable to do as they please.

The statement that Pierce never drew blood in his whippings is false, as many inmates of the Home know to their cost. At the time Marjory was so brutally beaten he was covered with blood from head to foot. The hall walls and floor were also splattered with blood, from the back action of the whip. We had to stay until late that evening in the hall until it was washed clean of every spot of blood.

A boy by the name of John Evans, who tried to run away from the Home, was brought back and chained in bed and cruelly beaten every morning until the blood ran from him. I was on the "bedroom gang" at the time, as was also Charles Olmstead, and we both saw Pierce draw blood on Evans. It was not an unusual thing to see blood spilled. I certainly could not count the times I have had blood drawn on myself. I got quite used to it after I had been an inmate for two months. Pierce states that he never used chains on the girls. This is absolutely false, as I saw two girls only

the force of the blow would cause the strap to wrap around the hand several times and cause terrible pain. My hands have been swelled to twice their regular size and turned black and blue by this kind of whipping. I have seen other children treated in the same way.

Little children, girls as well as boys, were whipped by Pierce in the same way. I have seen him punish little girls, five or six years old, until they begged for mercy on the day they were brought to the home. He whipped them that way because they were afraid to tell their names or answer some of his questions.

One way of punishing he had was to hold the heads of the children in a pail of water until they nearly strangled. He held my head in water so long one day that I thought I would die before I caught my breath.

From the whips I have seen many boys with great blood blisters and red streaks on their backs. He would whip any child who was complained of, whether the child had done anything wrong or not. He would always make believe that he was sorry he had to whip us, but he seemed to enjoy doing it every time he could get a chance.

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CHAINED AND LASHED.

My name is William Kelley. I am an orphan and live in White Plains. I was put in the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children when I was two years old. I remember anything about my father. I was about five years old when I went there and stayed in the Home about eleven years. I do not remember anything about my father or mother, and do not know who put me in the Home. I do not remember the first whipping that Pierce gave me, but it must have been when I was very young. He has whipped me so many times that I cannot tell the number. In whipping me he always used a cat-o-nine tails. Sometimes he whipped me on the back, after making me take off my

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